

# News Release

# Senator Pete V. Domenici

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## DOMENICI'S "ACCESS" RADIO SHOW

Questions & Answers With New Mexico Radio Journalists

TO TAPE THE SHOW, CALL TOLL-FREE  
1-800-545-1267 ext. 309  
or visit [www.senate.gov/~domenici/press](http://www.senate.gov/~domenici/press)  
(See "Taped Audio Statements")

Record Senator Pete Domenici's "ACCESS" radio news conference, recorded Monday, June 19, 2000, by calling 1-800-545-1267 and entering extension 309. Please call the Domenici press office for assistance: 202-224-7082.

PARTICIPANTS: Bob Smith, KRSN Los Alamos  
Bob Mitchell, KRWG Las Cruces  
Don Pace, KNMX Las Vegas

TOPICS: DOE Management and Security Reforms  
DOE Secretary Bill Richardson Resignation?  
Dropping U.S. Sanctions Against North Korea  
Future of Los Alamos National Laboratories (LANL)  
Compensation to Victims of Cerro Grande Fire  
University of California Management of LANL  
New Federal Judges for Southwest Border States  
Supreme Court Ruling on Prayers at High School Football Games  
Domenici Recovery from Neck Surgery  
Compensation Claims Process for Cerro Grande Fire Victims

### DETAILS:

00:00 Domenici says he was informed Friday by FBI Director Louis Freeh that the **missing nuclear weapons data** had been found at LANL. He says the seriousness of the incident underscores the need for the DOE and Clinton administration to remove the roadblocks it has in place to hinder implementation of lab management and security reforms outlined in the law that created that National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

02:00 Domenici says he has not called for **Energy Secretary Bill Richardson's resignation**, but hopes that the latest security lapse at LANL will force Richardson to "change his mind" on his opposition to fully implementing the NNSA law, as approved by Congress and signed into law by the president. He says Richardson

- should understand that he cannot correct the problems with in DOE's bureaucracy by himself.
- 04:00 Domenici says he would support lessening **sanctions against North Korea**, which he visited several years ago, only if it begins to normalize relations with South Korea and to dismantle its huge military force. If North Korea began building down its military, Domenici says the United States and its allies could also begin reducing its military presence in South Korea.
- 07:00 Domenici says he fully expects the **compensation legislation**, which should be attached to the FY2001 Military Construction Appropriations Bill, should be done before the congressional recess in July.
- 10:00 Domenici offers assurances to LANL workers and the community that they will "come out of this [the latest security scandal] okay." He said the community should carefully note some anger on Capitol Hill about this incidence, but says allowing the NNSA to begin making changes to improve security, management, and accountability.
- 12:00 Domenici says the Appropriations Committees on the House and Senate should this week agree to add the **Cerro Grande Fire Assistance Act**, with a \$300 million designation, to an emergency spending package. He says the package, as part of the FY2001 Military Construction Appropriations Bill, should be ready for consideration by the Senate and House next week. He says the emergency appropriations package will also fund federal government fire recovery activities at LANL and around the state.
- 13:00 Domenici says New Mexico is getting a fair proportion of the new judgeships and court personnel that would be authorized in a bill he is cosponsoring to expand the **federal judiciary serving the Southwest Border**.
- 15:00 Domenici says he wants to read the dissenting opinion on the Supreme Court decision to outlaw **prayer at high school football games**. He says he does not personally agree with the decision.
- 17:00 Domenici says he is recovering nicely from his **neck surgery**, but that his physicians have limited his schedule. He says he hopes to be able to travel to New Mexico during the upcoming Independence Day recess. He again thanks New Mexicans for their get well wishes.
- 18:00 Domenici says the **Cerro Grande Fire Assistance Act** will use the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to administer victims claims, primarily because FEMA has some experience in the matter. He says the bill is crafted to suit New Mexico and that FEMA will administer the compensation program as such, not as a typical FEMA program.